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## **YOUTH COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES**

**Monday, March 21, 2005**

**1385 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**3:00 p.m.**

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Presiding: Paul Jackson, Chair

Present: James Andersen, Betty Barker, JoeAnn Bartlett, Linda Fife, Sandra Hemmert, Don Johnson, David Melville, Akilah Messado, Kevin Miller (for John Latkiewicz), Jon Pierpont, Jude Schmid, Melva Sine, Peter Smith (for Janet Wolf), Claire Turner, Sheri VanBibber, Ali Wilkinson

Absent: Lona Walton, Gay Pinnecoose, Kay Thibodeaux

Excused: Greg Diven, Sen. Brent Goodfellow, Dr. Stephen Ronnenkamp

Guests: Jim Tair, Kent Fitzgerald, Michael Gallegos, James Robson

Staff: Karla Aguirre, Amy Aldridge, Rebecca Banner, Steve Leyba, Diane Lovell, Mary Peterson, Brad Newsome

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Chairman Paul Jackson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and welcomed everyone. Mr. Jackson mentioned an email that was sent out inviting Youth Council members to the Central Region Council Retreat on April 7, 2005 and asked for all those who can to attend. Breakout sessions will be held and will be beneficial for everyone.

Mr. Jackson also reported that a 2-year WIA Plan Summary will be sent out sometime during this week and indicated that if members do not receive a copy and would like one to contact Diane Lovell.

### **Approval of January 24, 2005 Minutes**

**Chairman Jackson asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Claire Turner motioned to approve the Youth Council minutes from the January 24, 2005 meeting. JoeAnn Bartlett seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.**

### **DWS Transition Update**

Steve Leyba provided the Youth Council with a copy of the most recent DWS Organizational Chart issued by Tani Downing, DWS Executive Director. He pointed out that Senior Management has been trimmed from 21 to 12 and stated that he would make the Council aware of any additional changes that are made. Mr. Leyba also noted that at the last Central Regional Council meeting, Ms. Downing announced that Jon Pierpont is doing an excellent job and will remain in his current position.

### **YES Leadership Proposal**

Chairman Jackson referred the Council to the yellow handout describing the YES Leadership Project for this year. Two thousand dollars is allocated every year to Youth Providers to support Leadership/Citizenship Projects. Mr. Jackson asked for a motion from the Youth Council to approve the YES Leadership Project for the current year.

**Linda Fife moved the Council approve the allocation of \$2,000 to the Salt Lake County YES Program in support of the Leadership Project as proposed. Betty Barker seconded the motion. All voted “Aye”. The motion passed.**

### **WIA Status and Performance Reporting**

Karla Aguirre reported that the YES Program monitoring has been completed but a formal report is not yet available. The findings from this monitoring have been given to YES and they have until April 11, 2005 to respond. A final monitoring report will be made available after April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Karla Aguirre also handed out a copy of the Program Outcome Measures Report thru March 2005. In addition, a breakdown on the number of youth in each measure, a Case Analysis (data from UWORKS), and a Data Analysis summary were also provided.

Karla Aguirre updated the Council on the status of the Youth RFP Process, noting that the deadline was extended to March 30, 2005.

### **LMI – Economic Forecast**

James Robson addressed two issues regarding the Economic Forecast. The first was regarding Unemployment Rates. Mr. Robson indicated these rates were not available and have not been published for the past two months because the unemployment rates are not available at this time. Currently, a process is taking place to revise the rates by County back to 2000 using a new methodology. He expects to have this information within the next month or so.

Mr. Robson then provided the Council with a handout of the new Salt Lake City Metropolitan Area, which now consists of three counties, Salt Lake County, Summit County and Tooele County. The handout included two graphs from January, 2000 to October 2004 illustrating employment levels as reported in each of the three counties. In addition, graphs were provided which illustrated various industries and the number of job changes along with the percentages of job growth in these industries.

### **Strategic Vision - Committee Reports & Next Steps**

A 35-minute breakout session for new committees took place at today’s meeting. The committee composition follows.

- Youth Offenders
  - Dave Melville
  - Melva Sine
  - Ali Wilkinson

- Foster Care/Aging Out
  - Amy Aldridge
  - Kevin Miller
  - JoeAnn Bartlett
- Children of Incarcerated Parents/Migrant Youth
  - Jude Schmid
  - Sherri VanBibber
- Other Youth
  - Claire Turner
  - James Andersen
  - Betty Barker
  - Don Johnson
  - Linda Fife
  - Peter Smith
  - Akilah Messado
  - Sandra Hemmert

Paul Jackson asked that each sub-committee focus on the following four priority areas outlined by the Department of Labor in its new strategic vision:

- Focus on Alternative Education
- Meeting the Demands of Business (Especially high growth industries)
- Focus on the Neediest Youth
- Focus on Improved Performance

At the conclusion of breakout sessions, Paul Jackson asked for reports from each committee. Discussion outcomes were presented as follows:

#### Other Youth – Peter Smith

Peter Smith indicated their group initially struggled with the definition of “Other Youth”. The consensus of the committee was that “Other Youth” are those who do not fall into the other specified categories and can be referred to as low income status, free and reduced lunch, a limited English speaking background or homeless youth. The second issue was that once we have identified who these youth consist of, how will we identify and track these youth to refer them to program options. Communication between school districts and providing agencies was a place to start.

Mr. Smith noted that he learned there are different systems of tracking youth within all of the school districts. One suggestion was to have a system in place when a youth enrolls in a school to have the youth and/or parent sign a form giving permission for that school to refer the student on to another service. Therefore, there could be a relationship where you could actually refer the student on and not just have them floating out in the system. In addition, if all school districts within the affected area could feed into the State Clearing House this would allow categorizing “Other Youth” and a way to be able to

track them. Sandra Hemmert will talk with Superintendents of the various school districts to see if they would get on board and to determine how close the schools are to having a single student number that will follow the student from kindergarten through twelfth grade for tracking ease.

Peter Smith concluded with the idea to build a communication model to best target which youth are at risk of dropping out of the school system and how best to refer to other agencies.

**Betty Barker moved that the action items discussed by the “Other Youth” Committee be followed up on. Dave Melville seconded the motion. Diane Lovell asked that the date to review this information be targeted for the April 7<sup>th</sup> Retreat. The motion passed.**

#### Youth Offenders – Dave Melville

Dave Melville noted the idea talked most about in the Youth Offenders Committee is encouraging the connection between the youth leaving facilities and entering the workplace. There is limited job training made available within the facilities so the committee looked to the industry itself for ideas.

One idea was to improve and encourage mentoring from private industry and to provide incentives for the employer as well as the youth who is being mentored. Melva Sine is involved in the Restaurant Association and noted that there is a Chef Program that Youth Offenders could be involved in. Dave Melville will contact Melva Sine for ideas regarding this program.

Another suggestion was to have an industry like Wal-Mart provide in-house incentives for a youth that retains their job for a month. After working the month, the youth could be given a gift certificate to Wal-Mart to purchase something they may need (like a pair of shoes). An incentive program that is not end based but rather continued involvement needs to be put into place to keep the program sustainable and keep the youth involved. In addition, the positive publicity for the involved corporation is gained and, giving back to their community increases the success of the corporation. This same model can be applied to carpentry, construction, and other industries.

Sandra Hemmert indicated one of the problems with school districts is that when youth come back into the school system and the student is not ready to take English, Science and Math, but need to be in the Pro-Start program as their base, there needs to be a discussion within the school district to allow a student to take two periods initially and not have to sign up for two core academics as the rule currently requires.

Ms. Hemmert suggested that the committee pursue a conversation with the school district asking the district to consider allowing students into the Program who could be successful in a plumbing course, for example, but are not ready to be in English, Math and Science.

Sandra Hemmert noted another situation to discuss with the school district is when a youth is enrolled in the Chef Program, which may take 8000 hours to complete; having a plan for the hours the youth accumulates while in this program to be banked. If the youth quits and then comes back they do not have to start from scratch.

The second issue Ms. Hemmert noted would be to find businesses that are willing to participate in the Bureau of Apprenticeship Program so that when the hours are turned into the Bureau they are locked and don't lose ground when they re-enter. Some businesses are reluctant to sign up for the Bureau of Apprenticeship. Ali Wilkinson noted that when a business signs up for the Bureau of Apprenticeship, the community needs to be alerted in an effort to acknowledge support for those businesses that are willing to do so.

#### Foster Care – Amy Aldridge

Amy Aldridge reported on Youth in Foster Care and the lack of stability, study skills and the desire to work instead of attending school. She indicated the committee was not aware of resources to help with “out of school” youth. Some of the resources the committee came up with for mentoring were the HCOP Program, Youth Foster Success, Youth and Families With Promise and ETV.

Kevin Miller asked for clarification regarding the YES current numbers. He wanted to know the number of YES enrollees in foster care and what percentage they constitute of the region's total youth in foster care. Do those percentages reflect the greater community? In addition, how can we identify and mentor from point “A” to point “B”. Paul Jackson asked that the committee follow-up on these numbers.

#### Children of Incarcerated Parents/Migrant Youth – Jude Schmid

Jude Schmid reported that her committee asked the following questions: “Who are they?”, “Where are they?” and “What services are available as well as the gaps in service”? What entities are there to help locate these youth? It was suggested that children of incarcerated parents may be identified through the Adult Court Systems.

Regarding Migrant Youth, Ms. Schmid reported that a definition was needed. Also, it needs to be recognized that to have access to WIA funds the youth has to be a citizen or a legal permanent resident in order to be eligible. An issue that needs to be explored is to understand the migratory nature of this population within our own community. Also, attempt to contact the Jordan District as they do have migrant education. It was noted that if there is a youth that is eligible for free and/or reduced lunch, there is a number tied into the family for 14 and older, which would help identify these youth.

JoeAnn Bartlett indicated that if a parent is incarcerated and the youth does not have another family member to go to they are eligible for Foster Care.

James Andersen spoke about the Utah Basic Skills Competency Test (UBSCT) that can be taken at least four times if not more. This test is provided as an alternative diploma. To provide a service for potential drop-outs, perhaps the UBSCT remediation courses

could be provided at certain sites throughout the valley. Statistically, Mr. Andersen noted that we know by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade who will or will not pass the basic skills test to help identify these youth before they get too far down the road.

Paul Jackson indicated that he would want to know the correlation between the UBSCT Program and the DACUM – Workplace Essential Skills Program.

**Next Meeting:**

Chairman Jackson thanked the Council for their excellent input and participation. Mr. Jackson noted that the next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2005 and encouraged all to attend the retreat on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.